The boys and girls varsity swim teams traveled to Atlanta, Georgia on January 6 to compete in The 2012 Southeastern Catholic Invitational Meet at Emory University. After intense training, the athletes were ready to swim after being rested, tapered, shaved, and suited up.

“Our main competition is Cardinal Gibbons, so my goals were to beat them in all my events because they are our rivals. We placed third over all losing to Cardinal Gibbons by a small margin of points,” said senior caption Nick Andrade. The girls’ varsity swim team placed first overall.

Some swimmers wanted to make the regional times while others had their eye on state cuts, but everyone wanted to win the overall meet. With several different Catholic schools in the area gunning for the number one title, athletes sought emotional support from their teammates and captains.

“My favorite memory of the meet was definitely the MAN Team meetings; we're all like brothers and these meetings help us bond as a team and get each other fired up to swim,” said sophomore Ben Anderson.

All of the boys agree that the MAN team meetings improved their performance in Atlanta, and with more hard work; their performance at states will be stellar.

“Everyone swam new personal bests or got more regional cuts or both which really helps the team because the more people that make regional’s, the bigger our chances of winning regional’s, as well as how many people make the state team; You have to place in the top 12 in your events at regional’s to make states, so the more people we have at regional’s the bigger the team we could have at states,” said senior Michael Curry.

The events of the meet consisted of the 200 medley relay, 200 free, 200 IM, 50 free, 100 fly, 100 free, 500 free, 200 free relay, 100 back, 100 breast, 400 free relay, and 3 meter diving. Competing were Cardinal Gibbons, Marist, Pope Pius 10, Notre Dame high school and a couple others. For the boys’ events, Marist came in first overall and Cardinal Gibbons followed.

“Even though we got third at the meet, we still feel strong about states. Cardinal Gibbons was the only school at the meet that we will see again at states and they barely beat us, so we can't wait to swim them again when it comes time for states” said senior Michael Curry.